



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lt. Governor Juras Leads Montana AmeriCorps VISTA Members in Oath of Service

HELENA, MT –Lt. Governor Kristen Juras today led Montana's 28 AmeriCorps VISTA members in their Oath of Civil Service as they pledged to serve Montana's communities. The swearing in ceremony was hosted by the Governor's Office of Community Service, AmeriCorps, and Montana VISTA project partners: [Billings Metro VISTA Project](#); [Montana Community VISTA Partnership](#) (formerly DPHHS PRC AmeriCorps VISTA); [Montana Campus Compact](#); and [Rural Dynamics, Inc.](#) Attendees joined in person and virtually at the Montana State Capitol.

VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) was founded in 1965 as a national service program to fight poverty in America. In 1993, VISTA was incorporated into the AmeriCorps network of programs; since then, over 220,000 members have served in communities across the United States. In 2020, 94 VISTA members served in Montana, leveraging over \$1,147,045 in federal and state cash resources and an additional \$197,661 of in-kind resources. They recruited, trained, and managed 2,515 community volunteers.

"By serving with AmeriCorps VISTA, we can make a tangible difference in the lives of so many Montanans," said Sarah R. Sadowski, Director of the Governor's Office of Community Service. "As a two-term AmeriCorps VISTA alumna, I know firsthand how national service improves communities and the lives of those who serve."

Serving in communities of all sizes – from Billings to Browning – Montana VISTA members gain real-world experience and leadership skills while building capacity for local organizations. They serve to increase job training opportunities; reduce child abuse, hunger, and homelessness; prevent substance use and abuse; and improve high school graduation rates and access to post-secondary education, including vocational programs.

The Governor's Office of Community Service encourages Montanans of all backgrounds who are 18 or older to serve with AmeriCorps. With programs across the Big Sky State, there are ample opportunities to give back to your community while earning a living allowance and a [Segal AmeriCorps Education Award](#). Visit serve.mt.gov/ameriCorps to find and apply to a Montana AmeriCorps program that inspires you.

ServeMontana, the Governor's Office of Community Service, expands and promotes national service and volunteerism in Montana and engages citizens in service. Visit serve.mt.gov.

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